

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0402

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

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BRUSSELS FOR USEC

PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ECE, SENV

SUBJECT: ECE SPECIAL SESSION OF SENIOR ADVISORS ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS (SAEP)

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK
TO DISCUSS SAEP MEETING. STANOVNIK STRESSED NEED TO
START IMMEDIATELY ON DETAILED WORK AFTER SAEP MEETING.
HE SAID THAT WHEN NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR INDICATED UK
STILL NOT KEEN ON MOVING FORWARD ON TRANSBOUNDARY AIR
POLLUTION (TBAP), HE WARNED THAT THEY WILL BE PLAYING
RIGHT INTO EAST'S HANDS. STANOVNIK SEES JUNE 7-9 MEETING
AS STRICTLY ORGANIZATIONAL AND BELIEVES THERE IS NO
REASON FOR IT TO GET INTO SUBSTANCE. HE INTENDS TO
RECOMMEND TO BUREAU FOR SAEP MEETING THAT IT START BY
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SETTING UP WORKING GROUPS ON TBAP AND LOW-WASTE/NON-WASTE
TECHNOLOGY BEFORE GETTING INTO QUESTION OF OTHER TOPICS.
ON RUMOR THAT EAST MAY WANT TO HAVE A THIRD TOPICS UNDER
WHICH THEY CAN MAKE RHETORIAL POINTS, STANOVNIK SAID
IF EAST PROVES IT IS COMMITTED TO SERIOUS WORK ON FIRST
TWO TOPICS THEN IT MAY NOT BE TOO DANGEROUS TO LET THEM
HAVE A CHANCE TO HAVE SUCH A TOPIC. STANOVNIK AGREED

WITH AMBASSADOR THAT WEST SHOULD TELL EAST THAT IF IT INSISTS ON ADDITIONAL TOPICS BEFORE SOMETHING ACCOMPLISHED ON FIRST TWO TOPICS THEY ONLY RISK DELAYING THE CONVENING OF A HIGH LEVEL MEETING.

2. MISSION OFFICERS ALSO DISCUSSED FORTHCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF SAEP WITH SOVIET, HUNGARIAN, POLISH, AND SWISS MISSION OFFICERS. SOVIET MISSION ECONOMIC MINISTER ORNATSKI STATED VERY POSITIVELY HIS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE THAT THE JUNE 7-9 MEETING WOULD SET IN MOTION A SERIES OF EVENTS LEADING EXPEDITIOUSLY TO A HLM ON ENVIRONMENT. HE ENVISAGED THAT WORKING PARTIES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED ON TBAP AND LW/NW. THESE WOULD MEET DURING THE SUMMER, THE SAEP WOULD RECONVENE IN THE FALL TO CONSIDER WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDATIONS, THE WORKING PARTIES WOULD RECEIVE FURTHER GUIDANCE AND WOULD CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES DURING THE LATE FALL AND EARLY WINTER AND THE SENIOR ADVISERS AT THEIR REGULAR FEBRUARY MEETING WOULD REACH A DECISION ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 34TH PLENARY ON THE DETAILS AND TIMING OF A HLM. THERE SHOULD BE A THIRD WORKING PARTY TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL TOPICS. ADDITIONAL TOPICS MENTIONED WERE FLORA AND FAUNA AND TRANSBOUNDARY WATER POLLUTION. JUSTIFICATION GIVEN FOR WATER TOPICS WAS THAT CERTAIN STATES HAD MARGINAL INTEREST IN TWO PRINCIPAL TOPICS AND HLM SHOULD INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE TOPIC OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO EACH MEMBER STATE. ALSO, THIRD TOPIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL BE ENOUGH MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE TO WARRANT PARTICIPATION OF MINISTERS IN HLM. ORNATSKI NOTED THAT IF AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED ON WATER POLLUTION, THEN USSR FELT FLORA AND FAUNA WOULD MAKE A SUITABLE TOPIC. HE STRESSED THAT IT IS A SERIOUS TOPIC IN USSR'S VIEW AND REFERRED TO BILATERAL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS BETWEEN US AND USSR ON PROTECTION OF RARE SPECIES IN NATIONAL PARKS. ORNATSKI FELT THAT TBAP TOPIC SHOULD LEAD TO SOME KIND OF "LEGALLY BINDING" AGREEMENT OR CONVENTION AND SHOULD NOT JUST END IN A BROAD STATEMENT OR PRINCIPLES. ORNATSKI APPRECIATED FACT THAT LOW WASTE/NON-WASTE TECHNOLOGY AND FLORA AND FAUNA WERE TOPICS OF A DIFFERENT NATURE AND COULD LEAD ONLY TO EXCHANGES OF VIEWS BETWEEN EXPERTS.

3. MISSION OFFICERS AGREED DESIRABILITY EXPEDITIOUS STEPS LEADING TO HLM IF THERE TO BE ONE. ORNATSKI WAS TOLD THAT QUESTION OF SUITABLE TOPICS BEYOND THOSE TWO NOW GENERALLY ACCEPTED COULD EASILY LEAD TO DELAYS. HE DEFENDED VIEW THAT ONE WORKING PARTY SHOULD CONSIDER ADDITIONAL TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SAEP

WHO COULD DECIDE IF ANY ADDITIONAL TOPICS WERE APPROPRIATE. USG DEMANDS ON CRITERIA FOR HLM WERE REPEATED AND DOUBTS EXPRESSED THAT FLORA AND FAUNA AND TRANSBOUNDARY WATER POLLUTION WOULD FIT THESE CRITERIA. ORNATSKI HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO US VIEW THAT WORKING PARTY MEETINGS SHOULD BE SCHEDULED IN SEQUENCE SO THAT SOME DELEGATES COULD CONVENIENTLY ATTEND MORE THAN ONE MEETING.

4. HUNGARIAN MISSION OFFICER STATED THAT TRANSBOUNDARY WATER POLLUTION WAS THEIR MAJOR INTEREST. WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHERS THAT HUNGARIANS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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BRUSSELS FOR USEC
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GETTING REST OF EASTERN CAUCUS TO GO ALONG WITH THEIR DEMAND THAT WATER POLLUTION BE INCLUDED AS TOPICS. CONVERSATION WITH ORNATSKI TENDS TO CONFIRM THIS VIEW.
5. ON TACTICS FOR HANDLING PRESSURE FOR ADDITIONAL TOPICS (STATE 136387), CANADIANS SUGGEST THAT WASHINGTON CONTACT OTTAWA REGARDING CANADA'S VIEWS. SWISS MISSION REP BELIEVES WEST SHOULD, IF NECESSARY, CONSENT AT THE END OF SAEP MEETING TO ESTABLISH THIRD WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER FLORA AND FAUNA IF THAT IS

NECESSARY TO BLOCK WATER POLLUTION TOPIC.

6. CONVERSATIONS WITH SOME GENEVA REPS FROM EC-9
COUNTRIES INDICATE THAT THEY HOPE THAT COMMUNITY WILL BE
CONTENT TO ACCEPT ONLY TWO TOPICS, BUT THAT COMMUNITY'S
COORDINATIONS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL JUNE 5.
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